

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to note that during the debate on the Nadler amendment to H.R. 3010, which would have restored funding to Arts in Education programs, a procedural error occurred.

The RECORD will reflect that at the end of the debate, as a result of the agreement by Chairman REGULA to work to maintain funds for Arts in Education programs in conference, I stated that I would not seek a vote on my amendment. Immediately following the debate, however, in his haste to keep the proceedings moving, the Chair called a vote, contradicting my intention to withdraw my amendment. With nobody apparently listening, or realizing there was a vote in progress—no “aye” or “nay” vote was heard—the Chair declared the voice vote in the negative.

I would like the RECORD to reflect that it was my intention to withdraw my amendment, because of Chairman REGULA's commitment to the Arts in Education program. I trust that commitment will not be affected by the procedural error.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
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ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to Mr. PAUL's amendment that would bar Federal funds from being used for mental health screening programs. This amendment misunderstands the recommenda-

tions offered by President Bush's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, minimizes the importance of mental health to the well-being of Americans, and threatens vital efforts to promote access to mental health services.

Mental health is one of the greatest problems facing our Nation. During any one-year period, up to 50 million Americans—more than 22 percent—suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder involving a degree of incapacity that interferes with employment, attendance at school or daily life. Among other things, mental health affects whether one gets involved in substance abuse, commits violence, follows through on medical advice, cares for a child, performs his work, and engages in healthy behaviors. In short, one's mental health affects almost every aspect of life.

I believe strongly in the need to support children's physical and mental health, while respecting parental rights. Recognizing that early childhood is a critical period for the onset of emotional and behavioral problems, the President's Commission encouraged organizations that work with children to improve early identification of children with mental health needs. Research shows that early detection, assessment, and connection to treatment and support helps prevent mental health problems from worsening. Because more than 52 million students attend schools in the U.S., the Commission recognized that schools are in a key position to identify mental health problems early and help link children to appropriate services. The Commission in no way recommends mandatory legislation or any effort to circumvent parental consent to screening. Quite the opposite, in fact. It repeatedly recommends that child-serving organizations work with parents to support identification and treatment efforts.

Like so many disorders, mental illness does not discriminate and affects every age, ethnic, and socioeconomic group. Given its widespread effect on individuals and society, we need to put more emphasis on mental health, not less. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Paul amendment.

DAVID MUELLER OF WESTFIELD,
INDIANA

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, for many years we in this body have been discussing the issue of the use of methyl bromide and the impact of the elimination of this chemical as stated in the Montreal Protocol. We must look at how this will affect our diverse economy as well as lay the groundwork for new alternatives to replace methyl bromide. As signatories to the Montreal Protocol, the United States negotiators have a responsibility to Congress and the Administration to seek an

acceptable balance as they travel to Montreal in a few days to attend the Twenty-fifth Open-Ended Working Group Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, and associated meetings 26 June–2 July 2005.

I am proud to say that the answer to this international problem is found right in the State of Indiana and is being promoted by a Hoosier with a vision to create a safer environment while at the same time stimulating growth in the Hoosier economy.

This person is David Mueller of Westfield, Indiana. He is a fumigator and the son of a flour miller and has been fumigating since he was a teenager. His privately owned family business was founded in 1981 and has 25 employees.

Methyl bromide is a product that his company Fumigation Service & Supply, Inc. began using in the 1980s for fumigating flourmills, food processing structures, and post harvest commodities throughout the United States. At one point Mr. Mueller and his company used or sold over 300,000 lbs of methyl bromide per year in the early 1990s. This represented about 55 percent of their total fumigation business.

As of January 1, 2005, this Indiana company no longer uses methyl bromide. How did they phase out of this biocide?

In 1995 they heard that methyl bromide was going to be phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Dave understood that the loss of methyl bromide would have a dramatic effect on his business. He attended several domestic and international meetings to determine if this was a true story. After determining that alternatives would, in fact, be required under the U.S. Clean Air Act and the international treaty signed by President Reagan called the Montreal Protocol, his company began to search for credible alternatives.

As a stored product entomologist, Mr. Mueller started this search process by looking at methyl bromide and how it affects the insects and other pests. It is a biocide that kills like napalm. When it touches something, it kills it: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Other fumigants needed more time or a higher dosage rate to work. However, he understood that the respiration of the insects could be increased substantially by increasing the temperature in the flourmills and food factories or choosing the warmest time of the year to plan the scheduled fumigations.

By increasing the temperature of the insects they were observed to become stressed, dehydrated, and would die faster. The dosage rates for conventional fumigants and insecticides like phosphine, dichlorvos, and sulfurly fluoride worked better, faster, and at lower dosage rates when temperatures of 90–100° F (30–40° C) were created.

He also added carbon dioxide (3–5 percent) to the mix to allow for better mortality and shorter shutdown times for these post harvest fumigations. The carbon dioxide makes the insects and rodents breathe harder and faster allowing the fumigants to kill better and faster.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This is called the combination fumigation method.

The ten-year findings to this search for alternatives to methyl bromide showed those who were willing to listen that credible alternatives to methyl bromide do exist. The combination of heat and/or carbon dioxide added to existing E.P.A. registered fumigants and insecticides offers credible, technical, and economic alternatives to methyl bromide.

During this search for alternatives, Mr. Mueller noticed that many companies don't use methyl bromide. He asked how they do it. The answer was simple, they don't fumigate because they do all the things that they should do to prevent having to fumigate. Brand name companies like Frito Lay, Nestle, PepsiCo, Kal Kan, Purina, Gerber, Procter and Gamble, Wal-Mart, and many more don't fumigate with methyl bromide. Good cleaning, good prevention and monitoring strategies to be proactive rather than reactive have allowed these companies to prioritize their sanitation program with excellent results and corporate reputations. Their brand names are the best in the industry because they spend the resources to stop the insects and other pests from entering their facilities. If pests do get through the "gatekeeper" they have strategies to monitor for their early detection. Local treatments are then applied in a timely manner to eliminate any outbreaks. This is post harvest IPM and it works for those willing to be proactive instead of reactive.

In summary, life without methyl bromide is possible. This Hoosier company is doing it and other companies are doing it with credible alternatives for the protection of the environment. There is a price to pay for protecting the environment and everyone can find credible alternatives if they search for them like Fumigation Service & Supply, Inc. did. Companies that continue to use methyl bromide when there are credible alternatives available should spend the time, resources, and effort to make the right choice as did Mr. Mueller and Fumigation Supply & Service, Inc.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the reunion of Miami-Dade County's Booker T. Washington's class of 1963. In a special way, I commend this dedicated group of alumni, who entered our community's landmark institution in 1957. Forty-two years later, the members of this class are journeying to Washington, DC to celebrate a memorable "60th Birthday Bash," beginning on July 21, 2005.

Indeed, these distinguished alumni symbolize a cadre of young men and women daring to be great in their own right during their years at the school. Inspired by their motto, "Not the largest, but the best," this class represents a convergence of their desire to achieve greater enhancement of our noble traditions and the meaning of our common struggles.

Booker T. Washington is truly a school for students of all ages. It was established in the

days of segregation in 1926 and underwent many and varied changes, including its conversion to middle school status. But through the resilience of this class, its members achieved the unthinkable and convinced the Miami-Dade County School Board to reinstate its senior high school status in August 1999.

The alumni are now prominent members of our community and occupy positions of honor and prestige in many professions at the local, State and Federal levels. Among its distinguished leaders is Les Brown, who is on the national speakers' circuit, advising people of all ages to strive to be the best they can be; the Miami Dolphin's extraordinary athlete Larry Little; professor and author Audrey Thomas McCluskey of Indiana University; teacher-of-the-year awardee Laurasteen Thompson Jones, who continues to tutor children in innercity schools; preeminent educator Roberta Thompson Daniels; and educational counselor Stanley Squire—these are but a few of the members of the class of '63. They are bonded by their quest to serve others, and together they evoke a unique family of achievers and dreamers who have prided themselves in enduring the same burdens for the sake of others, especially the less fortunate.

As the class of '63 gathers to revive the memories of years gone by, I fully recognize the character of the members' genuine friendship that has given them hope and optimism for a better future amidst life's unceasing challenges. I am proud of this distinguished class because it represents the best and the noblest of our Miami-Dade County community and beyond amidst the countless struggles they have had to endure during a most difficult time of their years of learning. I look forward to their helping us cherish a genuine love for our proud heritage and enlighten us with greater wisdom while they continue to uphold the good name of their Alma Mater, Booker T. Washington High School.

COMMENDING PAUL WILLIAM CANFIELD UPON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE YMCA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Paul William Canfield, a resident of Chautauqua County, City of Jamestown, upon the occasion of receiving the YMCA Coach of the Year Award.

Paul was honored at the Jamestown YMCA annual meeting for his dedication and devotion to his job and the community. This honor was given to Paul for his exemplary services at the YMCA, not only as a volunteer, but also as a staff member.

In addition to donating his time and energy to the YMCA, Paul is also a special education teacher for the Jamestown Public Schools. Mr. Canfield has shown extreme devotion and generosity to the community, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to honor him here today.

CLARIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GRIJALVA AS AN ORIGINAL COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3051

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, I introduced H.R. 3051, the Pima County Land Adjustment Act. At introduction I inadvertently did not indicate Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA as an original cosponsor. Representative GRIJALVA made significant contributions during the authoring of this legislation and played an integral role throughout the process. Although the House rules do not permit Representative GRIJALVA's name to be shown as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3051, I wish to clarify that he rightly deserves this recognition. I would like to express my sincerest apologies to Representative GRIJALVA and his staff for this inadvertent oversight.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARENTS' TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Parents' Tax Relief Act, PTRR, to empower parents who choose to stay home with their children.

This legislation will end the longstanding inequity in the Tax Code that encourages day care above stay-at-home parenting. It will also help parents to spend more time with their children by encouraging flexible employment opportunities such as home-based businesses and telecommuting jobs.

Congress should recognize and support the incredible sacrifices parents make to raise their children. I have heard from Nebraska families who struggle to make ends meet so one parent can stay at home and provide the love, care and attention that every child deserves. The high Federal tax burden, which falls most heavily on the middle-class, has unfortunately made this option extremely difficult, if not unreachable, for many families.

Parents perform a tremendous balancing act between work and family responsibilities. It can be difficult for families to survive without a second income, much of which goes towards day care and work-related expenses such as dry-cleaning bills and gasoline, but which can also support grocery bills, medical expenses and savings for a child's future education.

Greater tax relief will make it a more realistic option for parents to stay at home with their little ones in the early formative years that are so crucial to children's physical, mental and emotional development. The legislation that I am introducing today will improve options for parents to contribute to family income while staying at home for their children, including home-based businesses and telecommuting jobs.

It is clear that parents want these options. A comprehensive study on balancing work and family, conducted by four major charitable foundations, found that 70 percent of parents

believe the best arrangement for the care of young children is to have one parent at home. An ABC News poll last month showed that 77 percent of parents agree that while it may be necessary for a mother to work and contribute to family income, it would be better if she could stay home to care for the house and children.

In a parenting survey done for Warner Books, 87 percent of mothers said they would stay at home to raise their children if they could afford it. The Family and Work Institute reported that 70 percent of working parents feel they lack enough time with their children, and nearly two-thirds of all workers would reduce their work hours by an average 11 hours a week if they could.

In addition, 62 percent of parents with preschoolers want policymakers to concentrate on making it more affordable for a parent to stay at home during a child's first few years than on improving the quality and affordability of day care. In fact, 53 percent of parents preferred direct tax cuts to stay-at-home-parents, while only 1 in 3, 33 percent, would cut costs for families using day care. Members of Congress should trust in the judgement of parents, especially regarding the care of preschool children.

The Parents' Tax Relief Act, which I am introducing today with a dozen original cosponsors, contains seven major tax improvements to empower parents and strengthen families in America:

First, this legislation extends the Dependent Care Tax Credit to parents who choose to be at home with their children. Established in 1954, this credit allows families to claim up to 35 percent of \$3,000 in documented, non-parental child care costs, and 35 percent of \$6,000 in day care expenses for two children. Families who make the financial sacrifice to have one parent stay at home for their children should also benefit from this tax credit.

Second, the Parents' Tax Relief Act will make the \$1,000 child tax credit permanent and index it to inflation to retain its long-term value. This tax relief is critical for Nebraska families with dependent children.

Third, this legislation will double the personal income tax exemption to half of its original 1948 value, from \$3,100 to \$5,000. From 1948 to 1963 when this exemption was equivalent to \$10,000 in today's inflation-adjusted dollars, America witnessed a "marriage boom," a "baby boom," and a decline in the divorce rate. There is evidence suggesting these outcomes were significantly advanced by federal tax policy to strengthen families. Doubling the personal income tax exemption provides critical support to families with children, as well as elderly or disabled dependents.

Fourth, the Parents' Tax Relief Act eliminates the marriage tax penalty once and for all. This penalty discourages the sacred institution of marriage by unfairly taxing married couples filing jointly at a higher rate than two single individuals earning the same income. The 2001 tax cut law reduced this penalty by doubling the standard deduction for joint filers, and doubling the size of the 15 percent tax bracket for married couples. Unfortunately, these reforms will expire by 2010, along with the rest of the tax cuts enacted by Congress. The Parents' Tax Relief Act will extend marriage tax relief to all tax brackets to prevent the government from discouraging marriage or forcing both parents into the workforce.

Fifth, this legislation will support parents who operate a home-based business in order to spend more time with their children. The bill establishes a standard home-office tax deduction to replace complicated IRS regulations that prevent many small business owners from deducting legitimate expenses. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that nine million of the 17.3 million small businesses in the United States are homebased, and 55 percent are operated by women. Many home businesses are started to provide a secondary income.

Sixth, the Parents' Tax Relief Act encourages telecommuting for families with young children. It will create a Telecommuting Tax Credit allowing employers to deduct a portion of a telecommuting employee's wages for income tax purposes. It will also support President Bush's budget request to allow individuals to exclude from income the value of employer-provided computers and related equipment necessary for work from home. Telecommuting is one way mothers or fathers can stay at home with their children while still contributing to family income.

Finally, the Parents' Tax Relief Act protects the Social Security benefits of women or men who choose to stay-at-home with preschool children. When a parent leaves the workforce to be at home with a child, the family's finances may not only suffer, but career opportunities and future earnings potential may be diminished. Parents who stay at home to care for children during prime working years may also jeopardize their future Social Security benefits—especially in the unfortunate case of disability or divorce.

The Parents' Tax Relief Act addresses the realities stay-at-home parents face by allowing up to 10 years of flexible Social Security employment credits for parents who stay at home to raise children age six and under. Public policy should recognize and safeguard stay-at-home parenting as valuable work that contributes to the character and security of our Nation.

These seven tax improvements will empower parents and strengthen families. The Federal government must not tax parents out of their homes at the expense of children. I am pleased to note that Senator SAM BROWNBACK is introducing this legislation in the other Chamber. It is my hope this bill will address the needs of modern families who want to stay at home with their children without decimating their family finances.

I urge my colleagues to support families by cosponsoring the Parents' Tax Relief Act today.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR PETER M. POLANDO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, who celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination this year.

Monsignor Polando was born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1954, and was ordained in 1980 at Youngstown's Cathedral of St. Columba. He has led a distinguished life, marked by numer-

ous degrees of higher education, an array of honors and awards, and a variety of career positions that have impacted many throughout Ohio. His impressive educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Gregory Seminary, Masters of Arts degrees from Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West, Notre Dame University, and Ursuline College, and a licentiate in Canon Law from Catholic University of America.

Monsignor Polando is a Chaplain of His Holiness, a high honor that was bestowed upon him by Pope John Paul II in 1997. Bishop Tobin, former head of the Youngstown Diocese, appointed him to the position of Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Youngstown in 2003. Monsignor Polando has served as Supreme Chaplain, Vice President and National Chaplain for the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, and as a Chaplain and Pastor for various churches, parishes, and organizations throughout Ohio. He has worked as an instructor at Walsh University, Ursuline College, and Cardinal Mooney High School, where he also served as principal and a cross country and track coach.

Monsignor Polando is also an active member of many organizations and societies including alumni associations, Knights of Columbus, Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses and several Catholic Slovak organizations, including Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreaths 54 and 108, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 169, and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

Monsignor Polando has touched the lives of many with his dedication and faith, and I would like to honor and congratulate him on his twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination.

A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

HON TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the forthright, courageous, and eloquent speech on democratization that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered on June 20, 2005, to an audience at the American University in Cairo during her trip this week to Egypt.

In Cairo, Secretary Rice acknowledged that democracies may vary somewhat from place to place, but she emphasized that there are certain ground-rules common to all democracies: "the right to speak freely, the right to associate, the right to worship as you wish, the freedom to educate your children—boys and girls, and freedom from the midnight knock of the secret police" among others.

Then she delivered powerful messages to both Middle Eastern authoritarian rulers and their citizens. To the rulers, Rice warned that "the fear of free choices can no longer justify the denial of liberty. It is time to abandon the excuses that are made to avoid the hard work of democracy."

Mr. Speaker, to the citizens of the Middle East she offered hope: "Millions of people are demanding freedom for themselves and democracy for their countries. To these courageous men and women, I say today: All free

nations will stand with you as you secure the blessings of your own liberty."

The Secretary commended President Mubarak's reform of presidential elections in Egypt, but she made clear that Egypt's implementation of the reform will be watched closely. And she defined exactly what fair implementation means: "Opposition groups must be free to assemble, and to participate, and to speak to the media. Voting should occur without violence or intimidation. And international election monitors and observers must have unrestricted access to do their jobs."

Moreover, she made clear that, even in the best circumstances, Egypt has a long way to go: "The day must come when the rule of law replaces emergency decrees—and when the independent judiciary replaces arbitrary justice."

Our Secretary of State has returned from the Middle East having re-affirmed American values and having made clear that our commitment to freedom in the Middle East is unflinching. And she communicated her message with a generosity of spirit and an understanding of the difficulties of democracy-building—as when she acknowledged America's painful history of slavery and discrimination—that made clear to her audience that the U.S. will be an empathetic partner along the path to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Secretary Rice's address be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read and give attention to her thoughtful remarks.

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY OF STATE
CONDOLLEEZZA RICE AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

Thank you very much, Dr. Hala Mustafa, for that really kind and warm introduction and your inspiring thoughts about democracy here in the region. I am honored to be here in the great and ancient city of Cairo.

The United States values our strategic relationship and our strengthening economic ties with Egypt. And American presidents since Ronald Reagan have benefited from the wisdom and the counsel of President Mubarak, with whom I had the pleasure of meeting earlier today.

The people of America and Egypt have always desired to visit one another and to learn from one another. And the highest ideals of our partnership are embodied right here, in the American University of Cairo. This great center of learning has endured and thrived—from the days when our friendship was somewhat rocky, to today, when the relationship is strong. And I am very grateful and honored to address you in the halls of this great center of learning.

Throughout its history, Egypt has always led this region through its moments of greatest decision. In the early 19th century, it was the reform-minded dynasty of Muhammad Ali that distinguished Egypt from the Ottoman Empire and began to transform it into the region's first modern nation.

In the early 20th century, it was the forward-looking Wafd Party that rose in the aftermath of the First World War and established Cairo as the liberal heart of the "Arab Awakening." And just three decades ago, it was Anwar Sadat who showed the way forward for the entire Middle East—beginning difficult economic reforms and making peace with Israel. In these periods of historic decision, Egypt's leadership was as visionary as it was essential for progress. And now in our own time, we are faced with equally momentous choices—choices that will echo for generations to come.

In this time of great decision, I have come to Cairo not to talk about the past, but to

look to the future—to a future that Egyptians can lead and can define. Ladies and Gentlemen: In our world today, a growing number of men and women are securing their liberty. And as these people gain the power to choose, they are creating democratic governments in order to protect their natural rights.

We should all look to a future when every government respects the will of its citizens—because the ideal of democracy is universal. For 60 years, my country, the United States, pursued stability at the expense of democracy in this region here in the Middle East—and we achieved neither. Now, we are taking a different course. We are supporting the democratic aspirations of all people.

As President Bush said in his Second Inaugural Address: "America will not impose our style of government on the unwilling. Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, to attain their own freedom, and to make their own way."

We know these advances will not come easily, or all at once. We know that different societies will find forms of democracy that work for them. When we talk about democracy, though, we are referring to governments that protect certain basic rights for all their citizens—among these, the right to speak freely. The right to associate. The right to worship as you wish. The freedom to educate your children—boys and girls. And freedom from the midnight knock of the secret police.

Securing these rights is the hope of every citizen, and the duty of every government. In my own country, the progress of democracy has been long and difficult. And given our history, the United States has no cause for false pride and we have every reason for humility.

After all, America was founded by individuals who knew that all human beings—and the governments they create—are inherently imperfect. And the United States was born half free and half slave. And it was only in my lifetime that my government guaranteed the right to vote for all of its people.

Nevertheless, the principles enshrined in our Constitution enable citizens of conviction to move America closer every day to the ideal of democracy. Here in the Middle East, that same long hopeful process of democratic change is now beginning to unfold. Millions of people are demanding freedom for themselves and democracy for their countries.

To these courageous men and women, I say today: All free nations will stand with you as you secure the blessings of your own liberty. I have just come from Jordan, where I met with the King and Queen—two leaders who have embraced reform for many years. And Jordan's education reforms are an example for the entire region. That government is moving toward political reforms that will decentralize power and give Jordanians a greater stake in their future.

In Iraq, millions of citizens are refusing to surrender to terror the dream of freedom and democracy. When Baghdad was first designed, over twelve-hundred years ago, it was conceived as the "Round City"—a city in which no citizen would be closer to the center of justice than any other. Today—after decades of murder, and tyranny, and injustice—the citizens of Iraq are again reaching for the ideals of the Round City.

Despite the attacks of violent and evil men, ordinary Iraqis are displaying great personal courage and remarkable resolve. And every step of the way—from regaining their sovereignty, to holding elections, to now writing a constitution—the people of Iraq are exceeding all expectations.

The Palestinian people have also spoken. And their freely-elected government is working to seize the best opportunity in years to

fulfill their historic dream of statehood. Courageous leaders, both among the Palestinians and the Israelis, are dedicated to seeking that peace. And they are working to build a shared trust.

The Palestinian Authority will soon take control of the Gaza—a first step toward realizing the vision of two democratic states living side by side in peace and security. As Palestinians fight terror, and as the Israelis fulfill their obligations and responsibilities to help create a viable Palestinian state, the entire world—especially Egypt and the United States—will offer full support.

In Lebanon, supporters of democracy are demanding independence from foreign masters. After the assassination of Rafiq Hariri, thousands of Lebanese citizens called for change. And when the murder of journalist Samir Qaseer reminded everyone of the reach and brutality of terror, the Lebanese people were still unafraid.

They mourned their fellow patriot, but they united publicly with pens and pencils held aloft. It is not only the Lebanese people who desire freedom from Syria's police state. The Syrian people themselves share that aspiration.

One hundred and seventy-nine Syrian academics and human rights activists are calling upon their government to "let the Damascus spring flower, and let its flowers bloom." Syria's leaders should embrace this call—and learn to trust their people. The case of Syria is especially serious, because as its neighbors embrace democracy and political reform, Syria continues to harbor or directly support groups committed to violence—in Lebanon, and in Israel, and Iraq, and in the Palestinian territories. It is time for Syria to make a strategic choice to join the progress that is going on all around it.

In Iran, people are losing patience with an oppressive regime that denies them their liberty and their rights. The appearance of elections does not mask the organized cruelty of Iran's theocratic state. The Iranian people, ladies and gentlemen, are capable of liberty. They desire liberty. And they deserve liberty. The time has come for the unelected few to release their grip on the aspirations of the proud people of Iran.

In Saudi Arabia, brave citizens are demanding accountable government. And some good first steps toward openness have been taken with recent municipal elections. Yet many people pay an unfair price for exercising their basic rights. Three individuals in particular are currently imprisoned for peacefully petitioning their government. That should not be a crime in any country.

Now, here in Cairo, President Mubarak's decision to amend the country's constitution and hold multiparty elections is encouraging. President Mubarak has unlocked the door for change. Now, the Egyptian Government must put its faith in its own people. We are all concerned for the future of Egypt's reforms when peaceful supporters of democracy—men and women—are not free from violence. The day must come when the rule of law replaces emergency decrees—and when the independent judiciary replaces arbitrary justice.

The Egyptian Government must fulfill the promise it has made to its people—and to the entire world—by giving its citizens the freedom to choose. Egypt's elections, including the Parliamentary elections, must meet objective standards that define every free election.

Opposition groups must be free to assemble, and to participate, and to speak to the media. Voting should occur without violence or intimidation. And international election monitors and observers must have unrestricted access to do their jobs.

Those who would participate in elections, both supporters and opponents of the government, also have responsibilities. They must

accept the rule of law, they must reject violence, they must respect the standards of free elections, and they must peacefully accept the results.

Throughout the Middle East, the fear of free choices can no longer justify the denial of liberty. It is time to abandon the excuses that are made to avoid the hard work of democracy. There are those who say that democracy is being imposed. In fact, the opposite is true: Democracy is never imposed. It is tyranny that must be imposed.

People choose democracy freely. And successful reform is always homegrown. Just look around the world today. For the first time in history, more people are citizens of democracies than of any other form of government. This is the result of choice, not of coercion.

There are those who say that democracy leads to chaos, or conflict, or terror. In fact, the opposite is true: Freedom and democracy are the only ideas powerful enough to overcome hatred, and division, and violence. For people of diverse races and religions, the inclusive nature of democracy can lift the fear of difference that some believe is a license to kill. But people of goodwill must choose to embrace the challenge of listening, and debating, and cooperating with one another.

For neighboring countries with turbulent histories, democracy can help to build trust and settle old disputes with dignity. But leaders of vision and character must commit themselves to the difficult work that nurtures the hope of peace. And for all citizens with grievances, democracy can be a path to lasting justice. But the democratic system cannot function if certain groups have one foot in the realm of politics and one foot in the camp of terror.

There are those who say that democracy destroys social institution and erodes moral standards. In fact, the opposite is true: The success of democracy depends on public character and private virtue. For democracy to thrive, free citizens must work every day to strengthen their families, to care for their neighbors, and to support their communities.

There are those who say that long-term economic and social progress can be achieved without free minds and free markets. In fact, human potential and creativity are only fully released when governments trust their people's decisions and invest in their people's future. And the key investment is in those people's education. Because education—for men and for women—transforms their dreams into reality and enables them to overcome poverty.

There are those who say that democracy is for men alone. In fact, the opposite is true: Half a democracy is not a democracy. As one Muslim woman leader has said, "Society is like a bird. It has two wings. And a bird cannot fly if one wing is broken." Across the Middle East, women are inspiring us all.

In Kuwait, women protested to win their right to vote, carrying signs that declared: "Women are Kuwaitis, too." Last month, Kuwait's legislature voiced its agreement. In Saudi Arabia, the promise of dignity is awakening in some young women. During the recent municipal elections, I saw the image of a father who went to vote with his daughter.

Rather than cast his vote himself, he gave the ballot to his daughter, and she placed it in the ballot box. This small act of hope reveals one man's dream for his daughter. And he is not alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Across the Middle East today, millions of citizens are voicing their aspirations for liberty and for democracy. These men and women are expanding boundaries in ways many thought impossible just one year ago.

They are demonstrating that all great moral achievements begin with individuals

who do not accept that the reality of today must also be the reality of tomorrow.

There was a time, not long ago, after all, when liberty was threatened by slavery.

The moral worth of my ancestors, it was thought, should be valued by the demand of the market, not by the dignity of their souls. This practice was sustained through violence. But the crime of human slavery could not withstand the power of human liberty. What seemed impossible in one century became inevitable in the next.

There was a time, even more recently, when liberty was threatened by colonialism. It was believed that certain peoples required foreign masters to rule their lands and run their lives. Like slavery, this ideology of injustice was enforced through oppression.

But when brave people demanded their rights, the truth that freedom is the destiny of every nation rang true throughout the world. What seemed impossible in one decade became inevitable in the next.

Today, liberty is threatened by undemocratic governments. Some believe this is a permanent fact of history. But there are others who know better. These impatient patriots can be found in Baghdad and Beirut, in Riyadh and in Ramallah, in Amman and in Tehran and right here in Cairo.

Together, they are defining a new standard of justice for our time—a standard that is clear, and powerful, and inspiring: Liberty is the universal longing of every soul, and democracy is the ideal path for every nation.

The day is coming when the promise of a fully free and democratic world, once thought impossible, will also seem inevitable. The people of Egypt should be at the forefront of this great journey, just as you have led this region through the great journeys of the past.

A hopeful future is within the reach of every Egyptian citizen—and every man and woman in the Middle East. The choice is yours to make. But you are not alone. All free nations are your allies. So together, let us choose liberty and democracy—for our nations, for our children, and for our shared future. Thank you.

INTRODUCING THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise, leaving many Americans unable to afford health insurance, while those with health care coverage, and their physicians, struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Furthermore, the predominance of third-party payers means there is effectively no market for individual health insurance policies, thus those whose employers cannot offer them health benefits must either pay exorbitant fees for health insurance or do without health insurance. Since most health care providers cater to those with health insurance, it is very difficult for the uninsured to find health care that meets their needs at an affordable price. The result is many of the uninsured turn to government-funded health care systems, or use their local emergency room as their primary care physician. The result of this is declining health for the uninsured and increased burden on taxpayer-financed health care system.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA), and Flexible Savings Accounts. By giving individuals tax incentives to purchase their own health care, the Comprehensive Health Care Act will help more Americans obtain quality health insurance and health care. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100% of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes.

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

C. Makes every American eligible for an Health Savings Account (HSA), removes the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy to open an HSA; allows individuals to use their HSA to make premium payments for high-deductible policy; and allows senior citizens to use their HSA to purchase Medigap policies.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Health Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

HONORING THE WOMEN VETERANS OF THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND THE ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS BANQUET

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the women veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we

stand in tribute and remembrance of those veterans, women and men, who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

For the past three years, the service, sacrifice and courage of women veterans of the United States Armed Forces have been honored and celebrated in Cleveland at the "Women Veterans Banquet." The idea was brought to life by U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Cindy Campbell, Desert Storm Veteran, and her husband, John Campbell.

The organizers of the Women Veterans Banquet provide a significant opportunity for the Cleveland community to honor and recognize the unwavering dedication and bravery exhibited by women who have been on the front lines of combat throughout America's history—from women soldiers on the battleground, to women piloting F-14's, to women doctors and nurses working in makeshift medical units administering to the wounded. Beyond recognizing the immense contribution and sacrifice of women soldiers and veterans, the members of the Women Veterans Banquet have also work to raise funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the Women in Military Service Memorial in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the women of our United States Armed Forces. Let us forever remember their service, courage and steadfast commitment, and keep especially close in our hearts those soldiers, women and men, who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country, when they heeded the call to serve.

HONORING MATTHEW MAZGAJ FOR HIS ALL AROUND EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary academic and athletic achievements Matthew Mazgaj.

Matthew is one of those students who does not go unnoticed. This article as published in the Jamestown Post Journal pays tribute to an outstanding young man.

AREA WRESTLER A STANDOUT IN AND OUT OF
CLASSROOM

(By Scott Kindberg)

Richard Rybicki saw something special in Matt Mazgaj almost from the moment he met him on the first day of school in 1998.

As his homeroom teacher at Southwestern Middle School, Rybicki was struck by Mazgaj's leadership skills, even as an 11-year-old sixth-grader.

"He was a standout in and out of the classroom as an elementary student and athlete," Rybicki said.

Fast forward more than 6 years and nothing's changed.

Mazgaj's work ethic and drive to excel, first seen by Rybicki in the late 1990s, continued throughout his tenure at Southwestern Central School. From the classroom to the football field and from his church to the wrestling mat, the Trojans senior has laid a blueprint for other students to follow.

And somewhere Frank Hyde is smiling.

Hyde, who was The Post-Journal sports editor for 34 years, valued the all-around excellence of young people.

"Matt exemplifies the type of student athlete-scholar Frank Hyde admired most—those for whom participation in sports is an important part of the educational experience, but just a part," Post-Journal Editor Cristie Herbst said.

"He valued those students who also learned through participation in sports the lessons of good sportsmanship, fair play and determination to strive toward a goal. And as just as Matt has done, Frank believed that students should apply those values in all of their activities, in and out of school," Ms. Herbst said.

Hyde, no doubt, would also be happy to know that Mazgaj is this year's recipient of the 21st annual Hyde Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship, given by The Post-Journal, is awarded to the outstanding college-bound athlete from the newspaper's circulation area, which covers Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Warren counties.

The scholarship was presented during an awards assembly at Southwestern Central School on Wednesday morning.

Mazgaj has been accepted at Washington and Jefferson College, where he plans to major in biology and physics, and play football.

"I believe this type of an extensive education past high school is vital for an individual to succeed in our ever-advancing America today," Mazgaj wrote in an essay accompanying his scholarship application.

Judging from his academic performance and extracurricular activities, Mazgaj is on his way to a successful college experience.

Ranked 11th in his class with a 96 average, Mazgaj is a member of the National Honor Society, the Ophelia mentoring program and the math club; is an usher at Sacred Heart Church; and is a volunteer coach with the Southwestern Spartans midget football league team.

Athletically, he turned in one of the finest careers in school history.

In wrestling, he captured consecutive New York State Public High School Athletic Association small school championships in 2004 and 2005 at 215 pounds and shared the Ilio DiPaolo Scholarship this year.

Along the way, Mazgaj, a two-year captain, posted a 130-28 career record, was the Division 1 wrestler of the year, and twice the 215-pound division and Section 6 champion. The Trojans were also successful as a team during Mazgaj's era, claiming a small-school state championship once, Section 6 championship twice and league championship three times.

"When I first met Matt I noticed that he had an incredible work ethic that far surpassed his peers," Southwestern coach Mark Hetrick said in his letter of recommendation. "Matt was undefeated throughout middle school wrestling, but the thing that impressed me the most about this kid was his drive and motivation to get better. His hard work paid off."

Former Southwestern wrestling coach Walt Thurnau is equally complimentary.

"He has always displayed the characteristics of a true gentleman," Thurnau said in his letter of recommendation. "It doesn't matter if it's practice or competition, Matt is always respectful of his opponent or practice partner. He always treats everyone with respect and courtesy."

"Matt is very humble and would never brag about his accomplishments. If you didn't know that he was a two-time state champ, you would never learn it by listening to Matt. He still helps clean the mats and is always one of the last to leave the practice room."

Mazgaj's devotion to wrestling is immense, but his first love is on the gridiron. A firstteam all-state linebacker, The Post-

Journal co-Player of the Year and first-team all-Western New York selection last fall, Mazgaj led the Trojans to a 9-2 record and a Section 6 championship, the first sectional football title in school history. His impact, both on the field and in the classroom, was recognized when he was selected the Section 6 Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Statistically, Mazgaj, a two-year captain, holds team records for career tackles (357) and single-season tackles for a loss (22), and is tied for first in tackles in a season (133).

"I think the most important characteristic that Matt possesses is his character," Southwestern head football coach and government/economics teacher Jay Sirianni wrote in his letter of recommendation. "Matt displays the attributes of a natural leader. He has integrity, loyalty, a strong work ethic, and he leads by example. In an era with few positive role models, Matt has been a positive role model to his classmates and younger students."

Because of his considerable wrestling talents, Mazgaj could have continued his career at the Division I or Division II level. Instead, he chose to follow his heart and his true love—football.

"With making the decision to play football in college, I gave up substantial athletic scholarship financial aid," Mazgaj wrote. "Washington and Jefferson is a Division III school, and because of this they cannot give athletic scholarships. This is why I am writing to you, to try and convince you to help me continue my athletic career in a sport that I have (proven myself) on the fields at Southwestern."

"The financial assistance will help to alleviate some of the stress developed from paying for college, then graduate, and maybe medical school."

Then Mazgaj added one final sentence.

"Regardless of the monetary assistance, this award would, first and foremost, be an honor to receive."

"Matt Mazgaj is that exceptional student-athlete who comes around few times, if any, in a teacher's career," wrote Rybicki, who is also Southwestern's athletic director. "Matt will definitely leave behind a legacy which has been forged by hard work, discipline and desire."

I am honored, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor this amazing young man.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF HYPOLUXO

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the Town of Hypoluxo, a gem in the strand of our jeweled communities of Palm Beach County, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on July 3, 2005. I have proudly represented Hypoluxo for 13 years in the United States Congress, and have come to know its residents and town leadership very well.

It is interesting to note that Hypoluxo got its name not from a Greek root, but from the Seminole name for Lake Worth which roughly translates to "water all around—no get out." Today a great number of people want to move into the friendly confines of Hypoluxo, but because no one wants to "get out", home sites are difficult to find. No doubt, because of the wonderful people and the coastal breezes.

Hypoluxo is one of the smallest communities in my District with its nearly 2,500 people, but it has in its rich heritage played a very

important role in the history and growth of Palm Beach County. It was the center of the story of the legendary Barefoot Mailman, who connected Jupiter with Lemon City (now the Miami area) in the 19th Century, long before any type of road existed.

At one time, the mail to Miami had to be shipped to Jacksonville, then by rail to Cedar Key, steam shipped to Key West and lastly by schooner to Miami. The big advancement took place in 1885, with a railroad line south to West Palm Beach. The mail then traveled by row boat to Hypoluxo. At Hypoluxo, the Barefoot Mailman took over and walked six days along the hard sand next to the ocean for over 60 miles (and occasionally crossing inlets by swimming or by canoe) to Miami—and back. All for \$175 every three months.

The Postal Creed says that “neither snow, nor rain, nor snow, nor heat, nor gloom of night will stay these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” To the Barefoot Mailman you can add on gators, sharks, snakes, hurricanes, and swift currents. In fact, it is legend that alligators or sharks caused the demise of a Barefoot Mailman on one of his appointed rounds.

Mr. Speaker, Hypoluxo has created in its natural scrub park, a statue monument to the Barefoot Mailman, to recognize the heroic traditions of each person who served the coastal residents and brought the news, commercial transactions, and many smiles to them during their years of service.

To the citizens of Hypoluxo gathered to celebrate its 50 years in the shadow of its beautiful Key West Town Hall, its natural Florida hammock, and under the watchful eye of the Barefoot Mailman, I congratulate you and wish you the best in the next 50 years. I am sure that by that time the mail will arrive a little faster—but not with the colorful traditions of the Barefoot Mailman. Congratulations on 50 years, and on behalf of Florida's 22nd Congressional District, I wish you many, many more.

MGM V. GROKSTER DECISION

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of today's 9–0 Supreme Court decision in the MGM v. Grokster case. By ruling that providing the software makes a file-sharing service liable for facilitating this online theft and for encouraging illegal downloads, the Court preserved this country's 200 year history of inspiring American creativity by protecting the rights of those who create it.

Traffic in copyrighted material has already cost American industry hundreds of millions of dollars. One-half of all teenagers have downloaded music for free, with two-thirds of them saying they buy less music now that they can steal it over the Internet so easily. Given the severity and magnitude of the problem, I sincerely hope that today's ruling will force these services to either clean up their acts or discontinue entirely.

The Court unanimously found what so many of us already knew: peer-to-peer networks are merely the latest technology used to steal

from copyright owners. Online file-sharing services, like Grokster and KaZaa, may not distribute copyrighted materials off of their own servers, but they certainly encourage that theft and profit from it. Just as in the physical world, promoting criminal activity is itself a crime. I am pleased peer-to-peer networks that actively encourage piracy will now be held responsible for their actions.

THE VOLUNTEER FIGHTERS OF VERMONT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, there are over 800,000 volunteer firefighters in the United States. Of the 30,000 fire departments in the United States, two thirds are entirely made up of volunteers—21,761 companies. Another 5,271 companies are mostly made up of volunteers.

In my own state of Vermont there are 246 small towns—and 244 fire departments. Five of them are in large cities, where there first responders are full time, paid firefighters. Vermont has 265 paid firefighters—all brave and dedicated men and women.

But in rural Vermont, dotted with small cities and smaller towns, there is often neither the population base nor the budget to support full-time firefighters. But thousands of remarkable men and women step into the breach, giving generously of their time and energy and commitment to make sure our residences, our businesses, our farms, our towns, are safe. Vermont, with a population of about 620,000, has an astonishing 6,235 volunteer firefighters. Just over one person in every hundred who lives in our largely rural state has devoted himself or herself to protecting the community in which they live.

These first responders are models for people across our entire nation of what commitment to one's neighbor looks like. Every day they demonstrate, in good weather and bad, in sweltering summer heat when their boots and coats are like ovens, and in the depths of winter when the temperature goes to 25 below and frostbite threatens, that they are willing to put their lives on the line to protect the lives of others.

Our nation was built by people who were as concerned about their neighbors as they were about their own interests. It has been sustained by brave men and women who love their country, their community, their neighbors and family, as much as they love life itself. And that tradition of service and bravery continues in Vermont. I proudly celebrate, today, the remarkable volunteer firefighters of Vermont. We all owe them a debt of gratitude: They are among the great unsung heroes of our times.

HONORING LUCILLE SALTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lucille Salter, as she celebrates her 100th birthday. It is my great pleasure to commemorate this milestone for a woman who is a pillar in her community of Boulder City, Nevada.

Mrs. Salter arrived in Boulder City in 1931 at the height of the Great Depression. She spent time working for the telephone company, the Federal Government, and the City of Henderson.

Today, Mrs. Salter lives with her husband, Ross Salter, in Henderson, Nevada and enjoys visits from her grandchildren and playing bridge. She leads a full life and is admired by her many friends for her willingness to help in any way she can.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor Lucille Salter and give her my deepest thanks for her contributions to the Southern Nevada community. It is my hope that those that have been touched by her giving spirit will remember her example and use it in their own lives.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay Federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government “for the children” we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new Federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL
THOMAS OLIVER KEELING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Lance Corporal Thomas Oliver Keeling, who courageously and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Corporal Keeling's life was defined by his family, friends, love for his country and an unbridled energy and joy that he freely extended to others. He received inner strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his parents, Sherry Berry and Thomas Keeling, step-parents, Robert Berry and Diane Palos, and siblings, Erin, Kristen and Rebecca.

Corporal Keeling was a dedicated family member, student and Marine. After graduating from Strongsville High School in 2000, he enrolled at Kent State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 2004. He was always willing to go the extra mile for his family, friends, and for those with whom he served beside, with the highest level of honor and integrity, the men and women of Weapons Company—3rd Battalion, 25th U.S. Marine Regiment in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lance Corporal Thomas Oliver Keeling. I extend my deepest condolences to his entire family, extended family, and to his many friends. The immeasurable sacrifice, significant service, and unwavering bravery that framed his young life will be forever held within the hearts of all who knew and loved him well. Corporal Keeling's life is testament to all that is good in humanity, and his legacy will be honored and remembered by the people of Strongsville, the Cleveland community, and the entire Nation, for all time.

HONORING CODY-ANNE WEISE AND
AMY TRAVIS AS RECIPIENTS OF
THE WELCH'S SCHOLARSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary academic achievements of Cody-Anne Weise and Amy Travis as recipients of the Welch's scholarship.

Children and grandchildren of Welch's and the National Grape Cooperative employees are eligible for the \$1,500 scholarship.

Ms. Weise is the daughter of James and Cynthia Weise of Sherman. Mrs. Weise is employed by Welch's as harvest, fruit receiving supervisor at the North East, Pennsylvania plant. Cody-Anne is a 2003 graduate of Sherman Central School and a graduate of Jamestown Community College with an associate's degree in individual studies. In August, Ms. Weise will enter SUNY Fredonia as a junior with plans to study secondary English education.

Ms. Travis is the daughter of David and Marcia Travis of Brocton, NY and the granddaughter of Edward Sunday. Mr. Sunday is a member of the National Grape Cooperative and a retired 30-year employee of Welch's. Amy participates in the 3-1-3 program at SUNY Fredonia making this the third time she has been awarded with the scholarship. This fall Amy plans to return to Fredonia State to major in music education.

I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor these accomplished and bright women.

CONGRATULATING THE GRANT
FAMILY ON THE BIRTH OF
THEIR CHILD, ALLISON MARIE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Bill and Claudia Grant on the birth of their child. Allison Marie Grant was welcomed into this world at 7:04 am on June 17th, 2005, weighing 6 pounds 12½ ounces. Both the mother and father's families were present to celebrate the joyful birth. The entire Citrus County Community welcomes their newest citizen. I congratulate Bill and Claudia on the new addition to their family and wish them years of continued health and happiness.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my support for the Community Services Block Grants, and take a moment to highlight the effect these grants have on my District. CSBG funds are used to support the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLTV). I have a long history of working with the CACLTV on a wide range of antipoverty initiatives which include housing, hunger, and community development, and I have seen the positive contributions that CACLTV has made as a result of CSBG funding.

CSBG grants are uniquely effective because they are locally-controlled and respond to the particular need of each individual community. The grants produce a return on investments and have a sophisticated outcome-based accountability system. In my district, the CACLTV generates over \$8 for each CSBG dollar; half of that leveraged money comes from private

sources which include utilities, banks, churches, foundations, and individuals.

CACLTV runs two homeless shelters in my district—Safe Harbor in Easton and the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown. These shelters serve individuals and families with issues ranging from drug and alcohol dependence to mental health. The CACLTV also operates Second Harvest Food Bank, distributing about 5 million pounds of donated and government food to over 170 agencies each year.

CACLTV operates three community development subsidiaries that are conducting entrepreneurial training and offer micro loans to help create dozens of micro enterprises each year. These CDC's operate two inner-city farmers' markets, offer cash assistance to struggling neighborhood-based businesses, provide residential and commercial facade improvement grants, and youth recreation programs.

Finally, CACLTV operates a comprehensive financial services program that teaches dozens of low income families to save money and buy homes. Additionally, the CACLTV offers free tax preparation services to over 600 tax-paying households.

Beyond these impressive efforts, the CACLTV has a record of building partnerships. It conceived and led a campaign that resulted in two open space referenda. This project is set to generate \$70 million to create and enhance parks, protect natural areas and preserve farms. The CACLTV's housing initiatives have led campaigns to create housing trust funds in two counties in my district, and funded programs that have dramatically expanded homeownership throughout the Lehigh Valley.

The funding reductions included in this bill will greatly impact CACLTV and Community Action Agencies across the country. The Executive Director of CACLTV expects that a cut in excess of 50 percent will result in the closing of one of its homeless shelters and all of its small business development work and perhaps even more.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that my district and the nation need the services that Community Action agencies provide. Although I understand the tight budget constraints we face, these programs will stimulate the economy and improve the quality of life for the residents of my district. As the appropriations process advances, I would like to express my support for funding levels equal to the final FY 2005 appropriations for CSBG.

REGARDING MEETING WITH
GENERAL LLOYD W. NEWTON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, on June 27th and 28th, I have requested an official leave of absence to attend to issues that are of vital importance to the people of Maine. I will be meeting with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) representative General Lloyd W. Newton at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Limestone, Maine. This facility is currently slated to close as part of the BRAC process. I will be leading General Lloyd W. Newton on a tour of the base to present the case that the facility must not be closed.

Currently, 362 hardworking Mainers are employed in the Limestone facility. Aroostook County and Northern Maine have already been devastated by the closure of the Loring Air Force Base. Additional job loss, along with the losses due to the proposed realignment at Brunswick Naval Air Station and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, would have a serious impact in Maine. It is important for me to meet personally with General Newton, along with Governor Baldacci, so that we can stress the critical service that this facility provides for the military and its vital importance to the Maine economy.

INTRODUCING THE FREEDOM FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes

benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of St. Matthias Parish, of Parma, Ohio, as they celebrate twenty-five years of faith, guidance and hope for parishioners, and for the greater good of the community.

Twenty-five years ago, St. Matthias was established by the late Bishop James A. Hickey. Bishop Hickey was later appointed to serve as Cardinal James A. Hickey. He announced that St. Matthias, a former mission parish, would now evolve into a full-fledged parish. Father Vincent Moraghan became the first Pastor of the church. On June 28, 1980, the first Mass was held at Green Valley School in Parma. The friendly and warm atmosphere of St. Matthias Parish has remained constant through the years. This spirit of cooperation and unity brought forth the planning and construction of a new church and rectory, completed by 1987. Following Pastor Moraghan's retirement, Father Raymond Sutter was appointed as Pastor, and continues his service to St. Matthias to this day.

The leadership and members of St. Matthias are a unified force of strength and assistance for many within the parish, and also for those in need, outside the parish. Volunteers continue to plan and implement programs such as the Volunteer Visitors Program, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Red Cross Drives, and the "Manna" Fundraiser, all of which serve to provide assistance and lift the spirit of individuals and families throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of St. Matthias Parish, as they celebrate twenty-five years of offering spiritual guidance for countless families and individuals. Since 1980, the parish has evolved in structure and location, yet it remains a steady beacon of light, faith and hope, that embraces the spiritual needs and everyday struggles of all parishioners.

HONORING ZACHARY AGETT UPON RECEIVING THE J.C. MATTESON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Zachary Agett, a resident of Chautauqua County, City of Jamestown, upon the occasion of receiving the J.C. Matteson Memorial Scholarship.

Zachary was awarded the scholarship for his honorable character and athletic achievement. Both on and off the football field: Agett displays dedication, selflessness, integrity and leadership, many of the same admirable attributes that J.C. Matteson demonstrated.

This scholarship fund was established by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation in honor of J.C. Matteson who died a very honorable death in Iraq last October. J.C. Matteson was a student and football player at Southwestern High School.

His father, James, plans to head up the fund-raising efforts for the scholarship for years to come. James Matteson's goal is to raise \$29,000 and award two \$1,000 scholarships in the coming years.

In the fall Agett plans to attend Washington and Jefferson University, where he will play football and major in biology. It is a wonderful honor to share the characteristics possessed by a fallen hero.

Zachary Agett is an upstanding young man and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND CHINA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America, recently wrote an opinion piece for the San Jose Mercury News. In this piece, Mr. Miller addresses some serious concerns about the Chinese government's trade policies and their efforts to control and limit information on the internet. Mr. Miller makes some excellent points and I encourage all of my colleagues to review his article.

[From the San Jose Mercury News, May 23, 2005]

IN WALLING OFF SOFTWARE MARKET, CHINA FORGETS TRADE GOES TWO WAYS

(By Harris N. Miller)

Chinese trade practices have long been the subject of complaint from U.S. manufacturers, particularly in the textile industry. American high-tech firms now see the storm clouds forming for their own business sectors. Two trends are particularly disturbing: China's leaders are quietly closing the doors to domestic market software competition while simultaneously attempting to expand government control over the Internet.

Despite U.S. protests, the Chinese government has published draft regulations that effectively would close China's government market to American and other foreign software companies. Software is likely to be the

first of many government markets to close to foreign competition.

When it comes to information technology, China is a waking giant. With a total information and communications technology marketplace of almost \$100 billion, the Chinese appetite for computers, software and networks has more than doubled since 2000. All things being equal, China's high-tech growth is a good thing. With more than 1 billion people and a rapidly growing economy, China should be a tremendously positive trading partner, and the U.S. information technology industry has championed China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

But to be widely embraced, the door to global trade must swing both ways. Not even considering a piracy rate exceeding 90 percent, China is now considering taking the additional step of rolling back the access that foreign software companies currently enjoy in the Chinese government procurement market.

China is in the process of implementing a "buy Chinese" software procurement policy for government systems, which, if implemented restrictively, will dramatically inhibit foreign involvement in software sales to the Chinese government.

New draft procurement rules would require foreign software firms seeking Chinese government business to either perform 50 percent of the development work in China and assign copyright to a Chinese entity or make substantial R&D and capital investments in China. Even those foreign companies that might meet China's R&D, manufacturing or outsourcing requirements could not compete fairly for government contracts. Any Chinese government entity that wants to procure foreign software eligible for purchase on these grounds would have to apply and obtain a specific waiver.

Equally troubling, China is asserting a larger government role over the operations of the Internet itself.

In a society like China's, one that represses dissent and rewards conformity, Internet access to news and information from countless points of view is nothing less than a threat. This is no doubt why Chinese officials have jailed dozens of citizens for "subversive" Internet-related activity, including issuing warnings about the spread of SARS or advocating greater democracy.

This also explains China's interest in blocking politically incorrect Web sites, collecting data on the Internet use and site visits of individuals, monitoring Internet service providers—even keeping tabs on Internet cafes.

Not exactly an advertisement for a government-run Internet. But at the Working Group on Internet Governance, a group affiliated with the United Nations, China said "the basic principles of the Internet, namely, openness, fairness, and democracy and freedom" are being diminished by the failure of governments to play a more prominent role in Internet governance.

Even though the Internet has flourished in a governance environment that brings together government, the private sector and civil society, China rejects this "trilateralism" because it denies "the due responsibility and role of governments in Internet policy-making."

China wants full access to the U.S. market while attempting to shut down the access that U.S. companies currently have to its market. At the same time, China's government-first stance on Internet governance threatens to throw sand in the gears of Internet proliferation (and the democratizing influence it represents). The U.S. information technology industry wants to continue to support China's role as a major trading partner. But that is possible only when free trade is truly free.

THE BRAVERY OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bravery and courage of the Little Rock Nine as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the time, these nine young African-Americans took heroic and dynamic steps toward achieving an integrated educational experience that would enhance their opportunities for a quality education.

Fifty years ago, the idea that white and black students would sit in the same classroom, amongst other places, was unbearable to many. Individuals on both sides of the race line could not fathom the possibility of an integrated educational system. The racism and segregation that dominated the country at the time was also vile and vicious. Fear and intimidation had long been the mark of this country's racial past, evidenced by the lynchings that the Senate recently apologized for not taking action against. For those young men and women to take the brave steps toward equality by presenting themselves as instruments of change must have taken a lot out of them.

Their bravery and courage nonetheless were the steps that have led this country to greater tolerance and understanding. It took heroes, like the Little Rock Nine, to lay the path for the important advances of today. Imagine where this country would be if these individuals had failed to step forward, to demand a desk at an integrated school, and to walk into American history demanding the fulfillment of the American Constitution.

With machine guns at the ready, screaming mobs, and death threats hurled at them, these nine young men and women bravely walked through the mob and into their classrooms. Their actions laid the foundations for a revolution in the American educational system. It called for an equalization of the way schools and communities would operate to ensure that all Americans received an equal opportunity to education and knowledge and that the doors of progress would no longer be closed to future generations of Americans, based on their race.

Today we have cause to applaud these valiant efforts. The Nation has moved significantly towards provided educational opportunities for all of our citizens and given them access to true opportunities of access and influence. There is still much to be done though. States still spend disproportionately more, per student, on white schools than black schools. The facilities of some minority schools lag way behind those of predominately-white schools. Whites often take advantage of private educational systems, draining the resources of public schools. The effect is a continued deficiency in the educational opportunities of our students.

Nonetheless, we have made considerable progress in our movement towards equality. That progress is largely thanks to individuals such as the Little Rock Nine. Without their bravery and courage in the 1950s, this country would still have much work to do in terms of equal opportunity.

I also want to thank my House colleagues for introducing and passing this resolution to recognize and honor those brave nine students. It is a sign that we have accomplished so much in this country.

VENICE, CALIFORNIA TURNS 100

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, there are few communities in the world that are instantly recognizable, that immediately conjure up an image, an identity, a lifestyle. Venice, California is one such place—a place that people dream about in the depths of winter; that promises eternal sunshine, warm beaches, buff and shapely lifeguards; and the soothing, ceaseless wash of the waves.

On July the 4th, as our Nation celebrates its 229th birthday, Venice, California celebrates its 100th. As a resident of Venice, I am proud to join my neighbors and local leaders in acknowledging this remarkable milestone.

Founded in 1905 by real estate entrepreneur Abbot Kinney, Venice was modeled after the canals and boardwalks of its namesake in Italy. Kinney's vision established Venice as an entertainment mecca, attracting visitors from around the world to its amusement park, boardwalk businesses, ocean swimming and street performances.

Since its inception, Venice has been a perennial attraction for artists and free spirits, beatnik writers, and innovative musicians—from Jack Kerouac to the Doors. Venice today remains a hub of artistic expression and cultural diversity with its graffiti art murals, sidewalk musicians, street basketball games, roller skate dancers, bodybuilding competitions, and lively restaurants, shops and cafes.

Venice is not only one of the nation's most unique artistic communities, it is booming with well-informed, politically engaged, civic-minded activists. A visit to the wonderful Farmer's Market on any weekend morning provides ample evidence of the community's wide and varying interests. In addition to a great cup of coffee, fresh baked goods and delicious local produce to feed the body, one can feed the mind at the many booths promoting diverse and important political, environmental and local causes.

The award-winning Venice Family Clinic is the largest free clinic in the country and provides inspiration to the community through life-saving health care for low-income, uninsured and homeless individuals.

Whether through the skills they learn at the Venice Boys & Girls Club or by cultivating their imagination at Venice Arts in Neighborhoods, our children grow up to be productive citizens. Many go on to dedicate themselves to enriching the community through the Venice-Marina Rotary or the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the diverse Venice community in the United States Congress. Each 4th of July, we celebrate two historic events together: American independence and the founding of our hometown.

INTRODUCING THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act, which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. Over the past few years, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERSIA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that something like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health care and further erode the ability of patients and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN with over 30 years in practice, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I have tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I have always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the Federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that Federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, antitrust laws harm consumers by preventing the operation of the free-market, causing prices to rise, quality to suffer, and, as is certainly the case with the relationship between the HMOs and medical professionals, favoring certain industries over others.

By restoring the freedom of medical professionals to voluntarily come together to negotiate as a group with HMOs and insurance companies, this bill removes a government-imposed barrier to a true free market in health care. Of course, this bill does not infringe on the rights of health care professionals by forcing them to join a bargaining organization against their will. While Congress should protect the rights of all Americans to join organizations for the purpose of bargaining collectively, Congress also has a moral responsibility to ensure that no worker is forced by law to join or financially support such an organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that Congress will not only remove the restraints on medical professionals' freedom of contract, but will also empower patients to control their health care by passing my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts individuals back in charge of their own health care by providing Americans with large tax credits and tax deductions for their health care expenses, including a deduction for premiums for a high-deductible insurance policy purchased in combination with a Health Savings Account. Putting individuals back in charge of their own health care decisions will enable patients to work with providers to ensure they receive the best possible health care at the lowest possible price. If providers and patients have the ability to form the contractual arrangements that they find most beneficial to them, the HMO monster will wither on the vine without the imposition of new Federal regulations on the insurance industry.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Quality Health Care Coalition Act and restore the freedom of contract and association to America's health care professionals. I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to promote a true free market in health care by putting patients back in charge of the health care dollar by supporting my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE ONGOING WAR IN IRAQ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in opposition to the ongoing war in Iraq.

The Bush Administration has no plan to secure peace in Iraq and has refused to develop a comprehensive exit strategy which ensures

the safe return of our troops. When our troops return home, this Administration also has refused to provide the care and services that our veterans need and deserve.

Since President Bush stood on an aircraft carrier to declare the end of "combat," more than 13,000 troops have been injured—nearly half have sustained such severe injuries that prevent them from returning to combat. More than 1,730 servicemen have died. These servicemen and women are more than just casualty statistics. They have families; they are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, daughters and sons. They have families, they are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, daughters and sons. And they all have Members of Congress who are supposed to represent their best interests.

I represent 10 brave servicemen who did not return to their families, nor the life they knew before the war. They are Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez, Army Sergeant Atanasio I Haromarin, Army Private First Class Jose Casanova, Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores, Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III, Marine Corporal Rudy Salas, Lance Corporal Benjamin M. Gonzalez, Lance Corporal Manuel A. Cenicerros, Specialist Private First Class Marcos O. Nolasco, and Corporal Stephen P. Johnson. These men, our fallen soldiers, are heroes.

I have many constituents serving our Nation in Iraq and around the world. Many of them do not even have their U.S. citizenship, yet they put their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. In fact, more than 50,000 green card soldiers are proudly serving this Nation as part of the U.S. military.

Our troops continue to do their commitment and duty to our country. However, this Administration and the military's leadership have failed in their responsibility to our troops. To date, there is no strategy to ensure that our troops return home. There is a \$1 billion shortfall for veterans care. When these troops return home they are returning to a system that cannot care for them or provide the benefits they so greatly sacrificed for and deserve.

Ultimately, a successful Iraq is an Iraq run by Iraqis, not the U.S. military. We owe Iraqis a peaceful nation. And, we owe our troops a secure return home to a grateful Nation and a secure future. This mission will not be complete until each one of our servicemen and women are home, something I strongly believe needs to happen soon. Tonight I am proud to stand alongside my colleagues in honoring our fallen heroes. We owe it to them, their families and active service members at home and abroad to have a strategy to bring the troops home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 24, 2005, I missed several rollcall votes due to a family engagement in North Carolina. I ask that my absence be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present:

For rollcall No. 310—an amendment to H.R. 3010, I would have voted "nay;" for rollcall No.

312—an amendment to H.R. 3010, I would have voted “yea;” for rollcall No. 313—an amendment to H.R. 3010, I would have voted “yea;” for rollcall No. 317—an amendment to H.R. 3010, I would have voted “yea;” for rollcall No. 321—final passage of H.R. 3010, I would have voted “nay.”

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
APPRENTICESHIP ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on the 16th day of August, 1937, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Fitzgerald Act, now known as the National Apprenticeship Act. In the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of August 7, 1937, Representative Fitzgerald (CT) said, “this bill sets up standards by Federal cooperation with the States and through the formation of voluntary committees in the states, throwing a cloak of protection around boys and girls and setting up standards and protecting them and guaranteeing that when their time of service in a trade has expired, they will come out full-fledged mechanics”.

In 1992 the United States Apprenticeship Association initiated the U.S.A.A. Donald Grabowski Hall of Fame, honoring individuals who have served at least 25 years helping the growth and development of apprenticeship and must be at least 65 years of age.

The following names represent well over 900 years of participation in various apprenticeship trades, ranging from Bricklaying, Carpentry, Sheet Metal, Electrical, Plumbers, Ironworkers, Operating Engineers, Painters, Auto Mechanic to Machinists. The inductees are: 1992—Richard Zorabedian, Rhode Island; John Hinkson, Missouri; William Denevi, California; and Howard Kerr, New York. 1993—Louise Albrecht, Wisconsin; Charles Nye, Wisconsin; Joseph D'Aires, New Jersey; Daniel Faddis, Oregon; and John Hunt, Pennsylvania. 1994—James Garde, New York; John O'Neil, Maine; and Thomas Crosby, Oregon. 1995—Lois Gray, New York; Gerald Olejniczak, Virginia; and Jack Reihl, Wisconsin. 1996—Lawrence Carr, Jr., Maine; John Hansen, Minnesota; and Peter Marzec, New York. 1997—Robert Baumgarden, Virginia; Richard Swain, Illinois; Kenneth Pittman, Florida; and Marion Winters, Washington, DC. 1998—Joseph Calci, Massachusetts. 1999—Albert Rowbottom, Maine; and Carl Horstrup, Oregon. 2000—Edward Marks, Massachusetts; Duane Meyer, Wisconsin; and Thomas Stanek, Wisconsin. 2001—Stephen P. Yorich, Michigan; and Kenneth “Skip” Hardt, Maine. 2002—Richard Karas, Michigan. 2003—Robert Roberts, Washington. 2004—William “Bill” Fura, Montana; Neil Heisey, Montana; and Keith Ricketts, Montana. 2005—Jim Reardon, Massachusetts; and James Kubinski, Massachusetts.

GENE BICKNELL FOR THE FINAL
GENE BICKNELL GOLF CLASSIC

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Bicknell of Pittsburg, Kansas for his dedication to giving back to his community.

Gene has remained an active contributor to the Pittsburg community, and has greatly impacted his neighbors through his generous efforts at Pittsburg State University and the city as a whole. Gene's devotion to charitable causes is recognized by many as truly inspirational.

The weekend of July 8, 2005 marks the fifteenth and final Gene Bicknell Charity Golf Classic, which benefits Pittsburg's Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center and Pittsburg State University, Gene's alma mater. The tournament has raised over \$1.2 million since its first year, and supporters hope to raise an additional \$100,000 this summer.

I congratulate Gene on the great success of this annual function and celebrate his humanitarian passion that has touched so many lives.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
WORK OF DIANA JORGENSEN
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Diana Jorgenson, a friend, constant supporter and advocate for the Contra Costa community, as she retires. Diana has a long history dedicated to improving the lives of families in my district and we are all beneficiaries of her service.

Diana's long career in mental health and disability services began after she received her Masters of Social Work from the University of California at Berkeley in 1968. From there, she went on to work in the Mental Health Agency in San Francisco and was liaison to Sonoma Development Center. She continued her work at the agency until 1971, when she moved to the Golden Gate Regional Center.

From 1973–1975 while her husband was in graduate school, Diana put her skills to work at the Family Service Agency in Honolulu, Hawaii, later returning to the Golden Gate Regional Center and serving as head of the Concord Office. It was in this role she played a major part in establishing the Regional Center of the East Bay, sharing the dream of integrating persons with developmental disabilities into the community.

By 1978, Diana had taken on the role of Manager and Acting Director of Client Services. From there she moved to the San Francisco School and facilitated services for the Visually Handicapped Program. Diana also provided services for the County Office of Education in both the Special Education Division and George Miller Center West.

The Developmental Disability Council welcomed her as a member in 1982 and for five years Diana worked simultaneously for Rich-

mond Unified School District's as a mental health specialist and in the DD Council.

For the past ten years Diana has worked tirelessly as staff to the Development Disability Council of Contra Costa as well as the Director of the Medically Vulnerable Infant Program for Contra Costa County. Her role has been vital in the Home Visiting Strategy for First Five and the Consultation and Response Team for home visitors.

Diana has served on the Board of the Infant Development Association for twenty-five years and was at one time the State Chair. For four years she also provided training on working with young children exposed to drugs.

Mr. Speaker, Diana has made monumental contributions in the world of social work world and I am pleased to recognize her many accomplishments.

Today, I am proud to commend her for her service to the community, her dedication to those in need and her commitment to the people of Contra Costa County. In recognizing Diana's great contributions, I would also like to wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, June 24, 2005, I was unavoidably detained with family matters and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote Nos. 313–321.

INTRODUCING THE CANCER AND
TERMINAL ILLNESS PATIENT
HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help working Americans stricken with cancer or other terminal illnesses, and their families, by introducing the Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act. This act exempts people with terminal illnesses from the employee portion of payroll taxes while they are suffering from such illnesses or are incurring significant medical costs associated with their conditions. The Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act also provides a payroll deduction to any worker who is the primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, or child with a terminal illness.

When stricken with cancer or another terminal disease, many Americans struggle to pay for the treatment necessary to save, or extend, their lives. Even employees with health insurance incur costs such as for transportation to and from care centers, prescription drugs not covered by their insurance, or for child care while they are receiving treatment. Yet, the federal government continues to force these employees to pay for retirement benefits they may never live to see!

Many Americans struggle to pay the costs of treating children, a spouse, or a parent with a terminal illness. My bill also provides much

needed tax relief for those who are providing care to a loved one with a terminal disease.

As a physician who has specialized in women's health issues for decades, I know how critical it is that cancer patients and others suffering from terminal illnesses have the resources they need to combat these illnesses. The Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act provides a realistic way to help people suffering from cancer or other terminal illnesses receive quality health care.

It is hard to think of a more compassionate tax policy this Congress could enact than to stop taking the resources away from working Americans that could help them treat cancer, AIDS, or other terrible health problems. I hope all my colleagues will help people suffering from terminal illnesses, and their caregivers, by cosponsoring the Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN D. BERSIN

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alan Bersin, who this June will conclude his seventh year as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools. As such, he finishes his term of service as the nation's longest serving superintendent in an urban district of 100,000 or more students. He has served our community in Southern California with great distinction as United States Attorney from 1993–1998 and as the Attorney General's Southwest Border Representative from 1995 to 1998, the so-called "border czar." Superintendent Bersin has rendered distinguished public service in the course of leading the transformation of the eighth largest public school district in America.

Under Superintendent Bersin's leadership, San Diego City Schools earning the highest academic rank increased by more than a third while the number of schools in the lowest category fell from 13 to 1. Mr. Bersin also promoted and successfully inspired 78.8 percent of the electorate to support a \$1.5 billion bond to repair and renovate the physical infrastructure of the city schools. He downsized the central office to streamline operations and directed further resources to the classroom. His outreach efforts set a new standard for community participation and dialogue and helped to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. By maintaining a relentless focus on enhanced instruction and improved student achievement, Superintendent Bersin achieved great things for public education in San Diego.

Mr. Bersin oversaw a transformation of San Diego City Schools. The district is now better able to serve its students, their families and the broader San Diego community. The credit belongs to thousands of teachers and hundreds of school and parent leaders who were galvanized and energized by Superintendent Bersin's leadership. I am also pleased to announce that Mr. Bersin's service in support of public education will continue as Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed him Secretary of Education for California and a member of the State Board of Education. His term commences on July 1, 2005. I want to offer my congratulations to Alan. He continues to

exemplify public service and public servants at their best. I know my colleagues join me in wishing every success to California's new Secretary for Education.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD RUGGERY, SR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Ruggery, Sr., owner of Ruggieri Enterprises LLC of Altoona, who has been honored as the 2005 Small Business Person of the Year by the St. Francis University Small Business Development Center. The Center recognizes businesses that have participated in the University's small business outreach program whose primary goal is to educate new business owners on how to create a successful business plan as well as assist in locating proper financing for their fledgling businesses.

After serving for more than 30 years as the Regional Director for the State Job Services and Unemployment Compensation Office in Altoona, Donald Ruggery, Sr. retired from his duties to assume a responsibility as equally as altruistic. In January 1992, he founded a Spherion staffing services franchise which today has grown into a full-service staffing and human resource consulting company providing permanent and temporary employment to thousands in the area. The success of the Spherion franchise in Altoona has spawned 11 other Spherion locations throughout central and western Pennsylvania.

Today, Ruggieri Enterprises, LLC doing business as Spherion under Donald's helm, is one of the top franchisees of a publicly-traded, three billion dollar staffing and human capital consulting company.

Donald selflessly refuses to take the full credit for such achievements and insists that others beside him were responsible for accomplishing their success in finding jobs for out-of-work Pennsylvanians. Despite Donald's refusal to take full recognition, through his careful guidance and leadership, Spherion has developed from a small start-up with one Altoona office at its inception to a multiple location firm with over \$34 million in revenue in 2004 alone.

The thousands of Pennsylvanians who now have jobs due to his continued hard work would certainly join me in thanking Donald for his contributions to the community and the economy, as well as serving as an inspiration for the spirit of chivalrous virtue.

INTRODUCING THE GERIATRICIANS LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2005

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, as our nation's 76 million baby boomers near retirement age, the number of Americans over age 65 will double to 70 million—one-fifth of the population. Americans older than 85 represent the

fastest growing segment of this population and membership in this once exclusive demographic group is projected to grow from four million Americans today to an estimated 19 million by 2050.

Unfortunately, our health care system is ill prepared to handle the strain of this enormous senior population, largely because we have a critical shortage of geriatric physicians. Fewer than 9,000 geriatricians practice in the United States, less than half of the current need. By 2030, the shortfall of geriatricians may reach 25,000 doctors. Approximately, 2,500 psychiatrists have received added qualifications in geriatric psychiatry; yet 4,000 to 5,000 geriatric psychiatrists are needed to provide patient care.

According to estimates from the President's Commission on Mental Health, at the current rate of approximately 80 new geriatric psychiatrists graduating each year and an estimated 3 percent attrition, there will be approximately 2,640 geriatric psychiatrists by the year 2030, or one per 5,682 older adults with a psychiatric disorder.

America must plan for the burdens the baby boomers demographic shift will place on our health care system and health care providers. Our first step is ensuring the country has an adequate number of well-trained physicians who specialize in geriatrics.

Today, I am introducing legislation along with my colleague Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, that will encourage more doctors to become certified in geriatrics. The Geriatricians Loan Forgiveness Act would amend the Public Health Service Act to include each year of fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry as a year of obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program. Specifically it would forgive \$35,000 of education debt incurred by medical students for each year of advanced training required to obtain a certificate of added qualifications in geriatric medicine or psychiatry.

Geriatric medicine is the foundation of a comprehensive health plan for our most vulnerable seniors. Geriatrics, by focusing on assessment and care coordination, promotes preventive care and improves patients' quality of life by allowing them greater independence and eliminating unnecessary and costly trips to the hospital or institutions. A fellowship in geriatric psychiatry provides intensive training in the biological and psychological aspects of normal aging, the psychiatric impact of acute and chronic physical illness, and the biological and psycho-social aspects of the pathology of primary psychiatric disturbances of older age. Thus, these specialists are equipped to diagnose and treat these complex conditions among our frailest citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of specialized care is complicated and demanding. Many doctors inclined to study and practice geriatrics are dissuaded from doing so because treating the elderly takes more time and carries financial disincentives for doctors.

Medical training takes time, and it is important that we take steps now to alleviate the shortages in geriatrics that are only going to get worse in the next ten years and beyond. This legislation is a commonsense approach and a cost-effective investment, and I hope it will receive the support of the House.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 24, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320 and 321.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 308, "aye" on rollcall 309, "aye" on rollcall 310, "aye" on rollcall 311, "aye" on rollcall 312, "no" on rollcall 313, "aye" on rollcall 314, "no" on rollcall 315, "aye" on rollcall 316, "no" on rollcall 317, on rollcall 318, "aye" on rollcall 319, "aye" on rollcall 320 and "no" on rollcall 321.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, terminal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition; such as cancer or a physical disability that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress' failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress' refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, parents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment! If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our nation's already overcrowded

emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above \$18,000 per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above \$15,000 per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling singling mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that low-income parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 29

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Peter Pace, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Eric S. Edelman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Daniel R. Stanley, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, and James A. Rispoli, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SD-106

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine vulnerabilities in the United States passport system.

SD-562

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 15, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States, S. 374, to provide compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River, S. 113, to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust, S. 881, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydro-power by the Grand Coulee Dam, S. 449, to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make Settlement Com-

mon Stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971, H.R. 797 and S. 475, bills to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians, S. 623, to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, S. 598, to reauthorize provisions in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 relating to Native Hawaiian low-income housing and Federal loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing, proposed legislation to condemn certain subsurface rights to land held in trust by the State of Arizona, and convey subsurface rights held by Bureau of Land Management, for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, proposed legislation to authorize funding for the National Indian Gaming Commission, S. 1239, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to permit the Indian Health Service, an Indian tribe, a tribal organization, or an urban Indian organization to pay the monthly part D premium of eligible medicare beneficiaries, S. 1231, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to modify provisions relating to the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education, proposed legislation to require former Federal employees who are employed by tribes to adhere to conflict of interest rules, and proposed legislation to amend the Tribally Controlled Community College and Universities Assistance Act.

SR-485

9:50 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 681, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to prepare, store, and distribute human umbilical cord blood stem cells for the treatment of patients and to support peer-reviewed research using such cells, and any nominations cleared for action.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Finance

To continue hearings to examine threatening the health care safety net regarding Medicaid waste, fraud and abuse.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of State and foreign operations.

SD-116

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the ongoing crisis in Uzbekistan and its implications for the United States.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national weather service-severe weather.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Ross Beyrle, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, Marie L. Yovanovitch, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Robert H. Tuttle, of California, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Ronald Spogli, of California, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic.

SD-419

Foreign Relations

International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine U.S. economic development strategy and the south caucasus.

SD-G50

Intelligence

To hold a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 30

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the status of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps in fighting the global war on terrorism.

SR-325

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine challenges of the Middle East road map.

SD-419

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine how information technology can reduce medical errors, lower healthcare costs, and improve the quality of patient care, including the importance of developing interoperable electronic medical records and highlight new technologies that will impact how health services are provided in the future.

SR-253

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the importance of prevention in curing Medicare.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of State and foreign operations.

SD-106

Finance

Taxation and IRS Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine savings and investment issues.

SD-215

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Philip Terry, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Charles S. Ciccolella, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine securing the cooperation of participating countries

relating to the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

SD-226

Intelligence

To hold a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to American history.

SD-430

JULY 1

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

SD-192

JULY 12

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine stem cell research (single cell technique without destruction of the embryo).

SD-124

JULY 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the effects of the U.S. nuclear testing program on the Marshall Islands.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-

amine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

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CANCELLATIONS

JUNE 29

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Spectrum-DTV.

SR-253

JUNE 30

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Philip Terry, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Charles S. Ciccolella, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

SR-418